UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/603,648	06/25/2003	Dennis Morgan	M1103.70154US00	4051

45840   7590   11/29/2007
WOLF GREENFIELD (Microsoft Corporation)
C/O WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
600 ATLANTIC AVENUE
BOSTON, MA 02210-2206

EXAMINER
SAN JUAN, MARTINJERIKO P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2132	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/29/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/603,648	MORGAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Martin Jeriko P. San Juan	2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _05 October 2007_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-33 and 37-39_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-33 and 37-39_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _June 25, 2003_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to Applicant's request for continued examination filed on October 5,

2007. Claims 1, 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, and 37 have been amended. Claims 1-33 and 37-

39 are now currently pending.

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed on August 6, 2007, with respect to

claims 1 under 35 USC 112, 2nd Par., and claims 18 and 33 under 35 USC 101 have

been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claim 1 under 35 USC 112,

2nd Par., and claims 18 and 33 under 35 USC 101 have been withdrawn.

2.   Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed on August 6, 2007, with respect to the

rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-6, 9-21, and 39 under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being

unpatentable over Malcolm [US 7146638 B2] and in view of Chakravarty [US

2004/0128545] have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection

has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection

is made in view of new prior art by Coley et al. [US 5826014], Hedge [US 6925495 B2],

Keane [US 2003/0131263 A1] and Chen [US 700006 B1]. Refer to Claim Rejections

section below for further details of how the rejections are made with respect to these

new prior art.

3.   Applicant's arguments filed, see Remarks, filed on August 6, 2007, with respect

to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 21-26, 30, 33, and 37-38 under 35 USC 102(e) as

allegedly being unpatentable over Malcolm [US 7146638 B2] and in view of Chakravarty

[US 2004/0128545] have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

> Applicant argues that Malcolm neither teaches nor suggests the amended claims
>
> as recited especially that of independent claim 21. The Applicant; however, did
>
> not go into detail how Malcolm alone does not teach the amended claims.

> The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The Examiner responds that Malcolm
>
> alone teaches the amended claims. Refer to Claim Rejection section below
>
> detailing how Malcolm teaches the amended claims.

4.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 27-29, 31-32, and 39 have been

considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection in view of previously

cited art by Malcolm [US 7146638 B2] and in combination with new prior art by Keane

[US 2003/0131263 A1] and Chen [US 700006 B1]. Refer to Claim Rejections section

below for further details of how the rejections are made with respect to these

combinations of prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1.   Claim 24 recites the limitation "wherein establishing the policy...". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It appears that the "establishing of the policy..." is referring back to the un-amended parent claim. For examination purposes, the Examiner interprets "establishing the policy..." as providing all access rules/requirements by the application program.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* v. *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1.   Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2.   Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3.   Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4.   Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

1.   Claims 1-5, 7-15, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coley et al. [US 5826014], hereinafter Coley, and further in view of Montenegro [US 6233688 B1].

Regarding claim 1, Coley teaches a computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving, by an operating system and/or an enforcement module which is associated

with or is part of the operating system [US 5826014, Col 7, Ln 5-20], a call [US

5826014, Col 7, Ln 37] from an application, the call having parameters for a connection

to an endpoint that the application desires to establish [US 5826014, Col 8, Ln 6-12],

whereby the application explicitly communicates a request to establish the connection

[US 5826014, Col 8, Ln 3-4 -- Examiner notes that a reliable request by the application

would have meant that the application "explicitly" communicated a request which

required only a minimum requirement verification before being connected as cited.]; and

making, by the operating system and/or the enforcement module [US 5826014, Col 6,

Ln 9-11], a call to a firewall to establish the connection in accordance with the

parameters [US 5826014, Col 10, Ln 35-39].

Coley does not explicitly teach an application programming interface. Montenegro

teaches a firewall traversal method regarding loading an application programming

interface (API) onto the client system [US 6233688 B1, Col 7, Ln 17-20].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to

implement an application programming interface as taught by Montenegro. The

suggestion/motivation for implementing an application programming interface would

have been to provide an interface between applications and the operating system

achieving a form of standardization for applications to interface with the operating

system. Montenegro is an analogous art because it solves the problem by providing the means of an interface between applications and an operating system.

Regarding claim 2, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising, at the firewall, evaluating the parameters with respect to a policy [US 5826014, Col 7, Ln 65-67 -- Examiner notes that a proxy agent being able to distinguish from a set of verification tests whose rigorousness is dictated by the characteristics of the application access request is evidence of a policy being used.] and, if the parameters meet the policy, establishing the network connection in accordance with the parameters [US 5826014, Col 9, Ln 1-31] [US 5826014, Col 10, Ln 35-39].

Regarding claim 3, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the parameters comprise a known endpoint to which the application would like to be connected [US 5826014, Col 10, Ln 3-5].

Regarding claim 4, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 3, wherein the parameters further comprise a request to limit the connection to a single connection [US 5826014, Col 9, Ln 34 – Examiner notes the validity check of <u>one</u> or more specific source addresses reads on limiting to a single connection.].

Regarding claim 5, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 4, further

comprising, after the connection has been established, closing the connection in

accordance with the request [US 5826014, Col 12, Ln 59-61].

Regarding claim 7, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the

parameters comprise limiting the connection to a subset of interfaces, local addresses,

or remote addresses, or combinations thereof [US 5826014, Col 9, Ln 33-36].

Regarding claim 8, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the

parameters comprise a timeout policy for the connection [US 5826014, Col 9, Ln 61-67].

Regarding claim 10, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the

parameters comprise information about a property of a flow that requires special

handling [US 5826014, Col 11, Ln 54-55].

Regarding claim 11, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 10, wherein

the information comprises a request for authentication or encryption handling [US

5826014, Col 11, Ln 54-55 – Examiner notes that the necessity of password information

reads on authentication.].

Regarding claim 12, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the

application explicitly communicates the request to establish the connection by opening a

listening socket [US 5826014, Col 6, Ln 5-7 -- Examiner notes that is inherent for each proxy agent to open a listening socket to its designated port to monitor incoming access requests from an application explicitly communicating a request to establish a connection.].

Regarding claim 13, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the application explicitly communicates the request to establish the connection by connecting to a socket [US 5826014, Col 7, Ln 42 -- Examiner notes that a request attaching to a particular port is evidence that the application explicitly communicating a request to establish a connection connects to a particular socket that was opened by a particular proxy agent.].

Regarding claim 14, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the call to the firewall is made via a firewall application programming interface [Examiner notes that an application interface is inherent in any kind of communication between applications.].

Regarding claim 15, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the firewall is located on a computer with the application [US 5826014, Col 7, Ln 24-34].

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected because it is directed to the same subject matter as claim 1.

Claim 20 is rejected because it is directed to the same subject matter as claim 14.

2.   Claims 21-26, 30, 33, and 37-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Malcolm [US 7146638 B2], and further in view of Montenegro [US

6233688 B1].

Regarding claim 21, Malcolm teaches a computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving, by an interception module [US 7146638 B2, Col 5, Ln 60-65 – Examiner

notes that intercepting access requests from application program is evidence of an

interception module.] and a filter cache [US 7146638 B2, Col 7, Ln 36-41 -- Examiner

notes the retrieval of a configuration of granting/deny access requests based from

comparing access request parameters with the access rules is evidence of a filter

cache.], a connect attempt, a listen attempt, or a combination thereof from an

application or a service [US 7146638 B2, Col 7, Ln 51-59]; extracting, by the

interception module, user and application or service information from the connect

attempt, the listen attempt, or the combination thereof [US 7146638 B2, Col 4, Ln 26-

37]; identifying, by the interception module, a user and the application or the service

from the user and application or service information [US 7146638 B2, Col 4, Ln 26-37];

evaluating, by the interception module, the application or service information to

determine if the connect attempt, the listen attempt, or the combination thereof comply

with one or more policies from a plurality of policies [US 7146638 B2, Col 7, Ln 36-41];

and if the connect attempt, the listen attempt, or the combination thereof comply with one or more policies from the plurality of policies, instructing, by the interception module, a firewall to create a configuration to allow the connect attempt, the listen attempt, or the combination thereof, and storing the configuration in the filter cache [US 7146638 B2, Col 9, Ln 38-52 – Examiner notes that approving/denying of access requests based from evaluating access requests against access rules that covers such requests is evidence that configurations have been created for those requests. Examiner also notes that access rules read on firewall policies.].

Malcolm does not explicitly teach an application programming interface. Montenegro teaches a firewall traversal method regarding loading an application programming interface (API) onto the client system [US 6233688 B1, Col 7, Ln 17-20].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to implement an application programming interface as taught by Montenegro. The suggestion/motivation for implementing an application programming interface would have been to provide an interface between applications and the operating system achieving a form of standardization for applications to interface with the operating system. Montenegro is an analogous art because it solves the problem by providing the means of an interface between applications and an operating system.

Regarding claim 22, Malcolm and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 21, further

comprising if the connect attempt, the listen attempt, or the combination thereof do not

comply with one or more policies from the plurality of policies, sending a notification to

the user of the application or service [US 7146638 B2, Col 9, Ln 53-59].

Regarding claim 23, Malcolm and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 22, wherein

the notification comprises a selection to allow a connection [US 7146638 B2, Col 9, Ln

59].

Regarding claim 24, Malcolm and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 21, wherein

establishing the policy comprises receiving a policy from the application or service [US

7146638 B2, Col 4, Ln 26-37] [Examiner notes for examining purposes, establishing the

policy is interpreted as providing all access rules/requirements by the application

program as cited.].

Regarding claim 25, Malcolm and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 24, wherein

receiving the policy comprises receiving the policy via the application programming

interface [An application programming interface would have been inherent.].

Regarding claim 26, Malcolm and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 24, wherein

the policy received from the application or service comprises inbound or outbound

restrictions using one or more Internet Protocol addresses, information about a subnet,

information about scope of the connection, or combinations thereof [US 7146638 B2, Col 4, Ln 28-37].

Regarding claim 30, Malcolm and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 21, wherein the firewall comprises a host firewall located on a computer with the application [US 7146638 B2, Fig 1, Itm 24].

Claim 33 and 37 are rejected because it is directed to the same subject matter as claim 21.

Regarding claim 38, Malcolm and Montenegro teaches the computer system of claim 37, wherein the interception module comprises a policy cache for storing the plurality of policies [US 7146638 B2, Col 7, Ln 25-27].

3.   Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coley et al. [US 5826014], hereinafter Coley, Montenegro [US 6233688 B1], and further in view of Hedge et al. [US 6925495 B2], hereinafter Hedge.

Regarding 6, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1. But Coley and Montenegro does not teach wherein the parameters comprise a request for bandwidth or connection throttling for the connection.

Hedge teaches a computer-implemented method, comprising: receiving a call from an application [US 6925495 B2, Fig 5, Itm 510 – Examiner notes that an application is inherent in a requesting device], the call having parameters for a connection to an endpoint that the application desires to establish [US 6925495 B2, Fig 8], whereby the application explicitly communicates a request to establish the connection and making a call to a firewall to establish the connection in accordance with the parameters [US 6925495 B2, Col 13, Ln 22-31], wherein the parameters comprise a request for bandwidth or connection throttling for the connection [US 6925495 B2, Col 16, Ln 10-11].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to accommodate a request for bandwidth or connection throttling as one of the parameters as taught by Hedge. The suggestion/motivation for the accommodation of bandwidth request is that since many sites rely on the user having a high bandwidth when streaming media to the user, bandwidth allocation is needed in a firewall to optimize content delivery [US 6925495 B2, Col 1, Ln 47-50]. Hedge is an analogous art because Hedge solves the problem of optimizing content delivery over a network by requesting and accommodating bandwidth allocation.

4.   Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coley et al. [US 5826014], hereinafter Coley, Montenegro [US 6233688 B1], and further in view of Keane et al. [US 2003/0131263 A1], hereinafter Keane.

Regarding claim 9, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1. But Coley

and Montenegro does not teach wherein the parameters comprise turning off or on

specific protocol options.

Keane teaches a computer-implemented method, comprising: receiving a call [US

2003/0131263 A1, Fig 8, Itm 800 – Examiner notes that receiving packets to be

transported across a network is evidence of receiving a call.] from an application [US

2003/0131263 A1, Pg 6, Par 0066 -- Examiner notes that network interfaces are

application interface receiving the packets.], the call having parameters for a connection

to an endpoint that the application desires to establish [US 2003/0131263 A1, Fig 6,7],

whereby the application explicitly communicates a request to establish the connection

and making a call to a firewall to establish the connection in accordance with the

parameters [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 7, Par 0081], wherein the parameters comprise

turning off or on specific protocol options [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 7, Par 0084].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to

accommodate the specific protocol options as taught by Keane. The

suggestion/motivation for the accommodation of specific protocol options is to provide

information to the firewall for evaluation of a packet whose specific protocol options may

be set [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 7, Par 0084]. Keane is an analogous art because

Keane is in the same field of transmitting packet content across a network using firewall

modules.

5.   Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Coley et al. [US 5826014], hereinafter Coley, Montenegro [US 6233688 B1], and further

in view of Chen [US 7000006 B1].

Regarding claim 16, Coley and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 1. But Coley

and Montenegro do not teach wherein the firewall comprises an edge firewall, and

further comprising an agent to communicate information to the edge firewall about the

connection.

Chen teaches a computer-implemented method, comprising: receiving a call from an

application via an application programming interface and making a call to a firewall to

establish the connection [US 7000006 B1, Col 9, Ln 21-29], wherein the firewall

comprises an edge firewall, and further comprising an agent to communicate

information to the edge firewall about the connection [US 7000006 B1, Col 9, Ln 21-29

-- Examiner notes that intercepting communications to a corresponding secure domain

is evidence of an application agent providing such functions.].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to

implement edge firewalls as taught by Chen. The suggestion/motivation for combining

Chen would have been to reduce the amount of processing time involved in configuring

networks for policy managements [US 7000006 B1, Col 1, Ln 40-47] because the

network can be abstracted into domains thus having reduced topology and internal

connectivity [US 7000006 B1, Col 1, Ln 51-59] which is made possible by implementing

edge firewalls. Chen is an analogous art because Chen solves the problem of being

able to reduce the amount of processing time involved in configuring networks for policy

managements.

Regarding claim 17, Coley, Montenegro, and Chen teach the method of claim 1,

wherein the firewall comprises an edge firewall [US 7000006 B1, Col 9, Ln 21-29], and

further comprising an authenticated protocol [US 7000006 B1, Col 2, Ln 65-67 --

Examiner notes authentication modules is evidence of authenticated protocols.] to

communicate information to the edge firewall about the connection.

6.   Claims 31, 32, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Malcolm [US 7146638 B2], Montenegro [US 6233688 B1], and

further in view of Chen [US 7000006 B1].

Regarding claim 31, Malcolm and Montenegro teaches the method of claim 21. But

Malcolm and Montenegro do not teach wherein the firewall comprises an edge firewall,

and further comprising an agent to communicate information about the connection.

Chen teaches a computer-implemented method, comprising: receiving a connect

attempt, a listen attempt, or a combination thereof from an application or a service [US

7000006 B1, Col 9, Ln 24-25]; evaluating, by the interception module, the application or

service information to determine if the connect attempt, the listen attempt, or the

combination thereof comply with one or more policies from a plurality of policies [US

7000006 B1, Col 9, Ln 11-15]; and if the connect attempt, the listen attempt, or the

combination thereof comply with one or more policies from the plurality of policies,

instructing, by the interception module, a firewall to allow the connect attempt, the listen

attempt, or the combination thereof [US 7000006 B1, Col 3, Ln 10-13], wherein the

firewall comprises an edge firewall, and further comprising an agent to communicate

information to the edge firewall about the connection [US 7000006 B1, Col 9, Ln 21-29

-- Examiner notes that intercepting communications to a corresponding secure domain

is evidence of an application agent providing such functions.].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to

implement edge firewalls as taught by Chen. The suggestion/motivation for combining

Chen would have been to reduce the amount of processing time involved in configuring

networks for policy managements [US 7000006 B1, Col 1, Ln 40-47] because the

network can be abstracted into domains thus having reduced topology and internal

connectivity [US 7000006 B1, Col 1, Ln 51-59] which is made possible by implementing

edge firewalls. Chen is an analogous art because Chen solves the problem of being

able to reduce the amount of processing time involved in configuring networks for policy managements.

Regarding claim 32, Malcolm, Montenegro, and Chen teach the method of claim 21, wherein the firewall comprises an edge firewall [US 7000006 B1, Col 9, Ln 21-29], and further comprising an authenticated protocol [US 7000006 B1, Col 2, Ln 65-67 -- Examiner notes authentication modules is evidence of authenticated protocols.] to communicate information to the edge firewall about the connection.

Claim 39 is rejected because it is the system performing the method of claim 31.

7.   Claims 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Malcolm [US 7146638 B2], Montenegro [US 6233688 B1], and further in view of Keane et al. [US 2003/0131263 A1], hereinafter Keane.

Regarding claim 27, Malcolm and Montenegro teach the method of claim 24. But Malcolm and Montenegro does not teach wherein the policy received from the application or service comprises communication security level.

Keane teaches a computer-implemented method, comprising: receiving a connect attempt, a listen attempt, or a combination thereof from an application or a service [US 2003/0131263 A1, Fig 8, Itm 800]; evaluating, the application or service information to

determine if the connect attempt, the listen attempt, or the combination thereof comply

with one or more policies from a plurality of policies [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 7, Par

0081],wherein establishing the policy comprises receiving a policy from the application

or service [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 5, Par 0061-0062],wherein the policy received

from the application or service comprises communication security level [US

2003/01321263 A1, Pg 3, Par 0040] [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 4, Par 0042]; and if the

connect attempt, the listen attempt, or the combination thereof comply with one or more

policies from the plurality of policies, instructing, a firewall to allow the connect attempt,

the listen attempt, or the combination thereof [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 7, Par 0080].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to

accommodate policies with communication security levels as taught by Keane. The

suggestion/motivation for the accommodation of communication security levels as part

of the policies is to provide secure private connections over the Internet by enabling

authentication of users and locations and encryption of communication, thereby

delivering secure and private "tunnels" between users or locations and thus establishing

a virtual private network, or VPN [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 1, Par 0009]. Keane is an

analogous art because Keane is in the same field of transmitting packet content across

a network using firewall modules.

Regarding claim 28, Malcolm, Montenegro, and Keane teach the method of claim 27, wherein the communication security level comprises authentication [US 2003/0131263 A1, Pg 4, Par 0042].

Regarding claim 29, Malcolm, Montenegro, and Keane teach the method of claim 27, wherein the communication security level comprises encryption [US 2003/01321263 A1, Pg 3, Par 0040].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Martin Jeriko P. San Juan whose telephone number is 571-272-7875. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30a - 6:00p EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
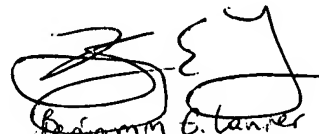
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the
Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.
Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.
For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should
you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a
USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information
system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MJSJ/

Martin Jeriko San Juan

Examiner. Art Unit 2132